

Marshfield Energy and Climate Change Committee  
Recorded by Ed Hutchinson  
Minutes of meeting 14 Feb 2011

Meeting called to order 6:35 PM chairman Richard Phillips presiding.

Attending: Rich Phillips, Anne Miller, Dan Chodorkoff, Joel Trupin, Lawrence Black, John Morris, and Edward Hutchinson (Plainfield).

The minutes of the meeting 10 January 2011 require adjustments and additions and will be approved at the next meeting.

Anne Miller wished to add two items to the proposed agenda for discussion. These were heard first.

- 1 Walk-in refrigerator for the food shelf. This item had been previously discussed as a possible project for the committee. The process has been examined and it appears that there will be grant funding available for this project. The current thought is to use an air conditioner rather than a commercial refrigeration compressor, and to vent outside air whenever the outside temperature will cool the room. This project will proceed without the committee with Anne leading it.
- 2 Community Garden. Angie Barger is working on this project. Anne Miller will continue to keep this project in mind and offer support from the committee if there is some way we can assist.
- 3 First item on the prepared agenda... Whole School Energy Challenge (WSEC). Twinfield has decided to participate in this new pilot program which involves the entire school in identifying energy use, setting reduction goals, developing a plan, implementing it and tracking results. This is an excellent approach to reduce use and train students to address this serious problem. We prepared a VECAN grant application to support the continuation of energy learning at Twinfield after the WSEC is complete. This will include electricity monitoring equipment, "Energy Home Diet" texts, student attendance at the Better Buildings By Design conference in 2012, materials and equipment for students to perform "Energy Home Visits" as our Committee did a couple of years back. These visits would be sponsored and supported by our Committee.
- 4 Town-Wide Resident Engagement. Rich proposed a series of perhaps four meetings to draw in the community. The first meeting would be planned near the beginning of the next school term and the other three to follow at approximately monthly intervals. The first meeting would have "celebrity" presentations on climate change, peak oil and efficiency. A list of speakers was suggested. This first meeting would be sponsored jointly by the M/P Energy Team and Twinfield. Twinfield's WSEC and its other energy efforts will be explained at this meeting.
- 5 The second session would bring in experts on the subjects of weatherization, alternative energy, incentives and funding, and the differences with private, community and municipal ownership of alternate energy generation equipment. Possible expert presenters were suggested.
- 6 The third session would be a chance to share community efforts to date. It would recruit representatives from the various successful achievements so far. That would include several testimonials from weatherization efforts. It would also include owners of energy efficient or alternate energy systems currently operating and let the owners describe the experience. There are several Biomass, solar and wind installations in the community.
- 7 The fourth session would be to decide on future actions. It included 13 subcategories. During the discussion it seemed that this might be more ambitious than a single meeting. There is a lot to do and deciding on the most effective strategies gets complex. Joel wondered if oil companies would share information about fuel saved? Anne suggested planning activities that would motivate people to attend. Dan suggested hands-on concrete activities. Getting people interested, involved, and communicating with each other seems like a key issue. The use of email to reach a large number of residents is a possibility. Dan, Anne and Rich will act as a Subcommittee to further develop the approach to the Town-wide engagement process. Plainfield representatives will decide whether they want to develop a similar engagement process in Plainfield.
- 8 Presentation of committee activities at town meeting. Current year successes are the commuter bus, progress on the OSC pellet boiler, light fixture replacements.... Tawnya Kristen will be available to speak about the bus. Dan and Anne could also speak. Rich will speak about the OSC boiler. Can the committee quantify the results in economic return? How many gallons of fuel saved, how many kWh of electricity.... what effect this has had on the budget.... How to defend the requests for next year.
- 9 Energy Section of the five-year revision of the town plan. Dan Chodorkoff wrote a draft. Rich Phillips added a list of bold goals for the next five years. Committee members are encouraged to read the proposed language carefully and submit comments before the end of the week when the document will be submitted to the Planning Commission.